pending claims; and

(d) whether Government would make the payment of the arrears including the interest on it; if so, by when?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) and (b) Government of India revise the rent of requisitioned/hired land in Jammu and Kashmir when the State Government issues notification revising the rates of rent. On 24th August, 1995 Government of India sanctioned payment of revised rent with effect from 16.2.1993 as per rates notified by the Government of Jammu & Kashmir. The arrears of rent at the above revised rates have not been fully paid for want of sufficient funds.

(c) and (d) No claim is pending before the Ministry. However 17 claims are under examination with the Director General, Defence Estates. The exact amount payable is being assessed. Interest is not payble on such amount of rent. Payment will be made as soon as adequate funds are made available.

Payment of rents for buildings used by Security Forces in Jammu and Kashmir

1828. SHRI SHARIEF-UD-DIN-SHARIQ: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of school buildings, industrial establishments/buildings are under the occupation of Security Forces in the valley of Kashmir;

(b) whether the rent is being paid to the owners or the State Government for these buildings; and

(c) if so, the details thereof; and if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) When troops are deployed on internal security duties for combating insurgency the Government of Jammu and Kashmir allocate buildings for their use. Since counter insurgency operations are dynamic in nature, the deployment of troops is changing constantly depending on the ground situation. Therefore, the locations of buildings temporarily occupied also change constantly. Thus the exact figures of such building are not available. The responsibility for payment of rent for these buildings rests with the State Government. Whenever army is deployed for border security and has occupied any building requisite rent is paid.

The details of buildings under occupation of other security forces and para military forces and payment of rent for such buildings are being ascertained from the concerned authorities.

Firing by Pak army on residential area of Poonch

1829. SHRI SURYABHAN PATIL VAHADANE: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pak army had fired five rockets in residential areas of Poonch in Jammu and Kashmir violating the International and Human Right Rules during December, 1996;

(b) if so, Government's reactions in the matter; and

(c) the steps taken to protest on such a serious matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI N.V.N. SOMU): (a) to (c) Pakistani troops had resorted to unprovoked firing of rockets in the area of Poonch, in December, 1996. There were no casualties. Appropriate and adequate military response is given by the Indian Army, whenever necessary, to firing by the Pakistani troops. Weekly telephonic conversations between the Indian Director General of Military Operations and his pakistani counterpart, and local level flag meetings, are also utilised to convey our concern over such incidents.